

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner has alleged that only claims 1-7 are readable on Species A. However, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is generic to all species and, upon allowance of this claim, the dependent claims should be in condition for allowance. Regarding independent claim 18, this claim does recite "two auxiliary buffering units." However, upon allowance of claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the restriction of this independent claim also be reconsidered, examined, and allowed.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by AKIMARU et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0035362 A1 or MASAKI et al., U.S. Patent 6,741,544 B1. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The patent to AKIMARU et al. discloses a disk drive. The Examiner has noted buffering units 9 in various figures. The MASAKI et al. patent discloses disk drive apparatus. The Examiner has noted the buffering units 40 in this patent. In both the AKIMARU et al. and MASAKI et al. patents, the buffering units are constantly in contact with the carrier. In the present invention, on the other hand, a driving module is provided. The driving module will either have the auxiliary units abut against the carrier or be spaced therefrom. Such an arrangement for the auxiliary buffering units is not found in the prior art utilized by the Examiner. In addition, the claimed driving module is not found. As such, it is respectfully submitted that neither patent would suggest nor render obvious the claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(e) rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

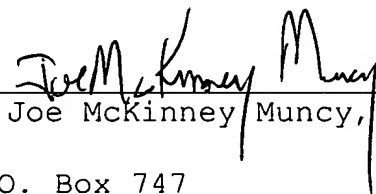
Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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